

76. TANYGNATHUS VIRIDIPENNIS Hartert. Tukang-Besi Islands.
 77. " SANGHIRENSIS Meyer & Wigl. Sanghir and Talaut Islands.
 78. ? PALÆORNIS INTERMEDIA Rothsch. India.
 79. " SALVADORII Oust. Szechuen and Thibet.
 80. " MAJOR Richm. Pulo Babi and Pulo Lasia, off the west coast of Sumatra.
 81. PYRRHULOPSIS ATROGULARIS (Peale). Gau Island (*Buller*).
 82. PSITTACELLA PICTA Rothsch. British New Guinea.
 83. PSITTINUS ABBOTTI Richm. Simular Island, off the west coast of Sumatra.
 84. AGAPORNIS NIGRIGENIS W. L. Sclat. N.W. Rhodesia.
 85. " LILIANÆ Shell. Upper Shiré, Nyasaland.
 86. " ZENKERI Rehnw. Cameroon.
 87. LORICULUS BOURNSI McGreg. Romblon, Libuyan, Tablas.
 88. " WORCESTERI Steere. Samar and Leyte.
 89. " RUBER Meyer & Wigl. Peling and Banggai Islands.
 90. " MEEKI Hartert. Fergusson Island and S.E. New Guinea.
 91. BARNARDIUS MACGILLIVRAYI (North). North Queensland.
 92. " OCCIDENTALIS (North). N.W. Australia.
 93. PSEPHOTUS DISSIMILIS Collett. Arnhem Land.
 94. ? CYANORHAMPHUS MAGNIROSTRIS Forbes & Robinson. Tahiti?
 95. " FORBESI Rothsch. Chatham Islands.

XIV.—On some rare Palaearctic Birds' Eggs.

By H. E. DRESSER, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., &c.

(Plate VI.)

(1) IBIDORHYNCHUS STRUTHERSI. (Plate VI. figs. 4, 5.)

Ibidorhynchus struthersi Dresser, Man. Palaearct. B. p. 805.

When last in England, Mr. S. L. Whymper spent some time in looking over my eggs and discussing oological matters, and I strongly advised him on his return to India to use every possible means to obtain the eggs of the Ibis-bill, as they were then quite unknown. In the spring of 1906 Mr. Whymper succeeded in finding them in the Himalayas, and at once sent me a clutch with the following particulars:—

"I found *Ibidorhynchus struthersi* breeding early in May at an elevation of between eight and nine thousand feet



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1. 2. GALLINAGO SOLITARIA.
3 GALLINAGO RADDII.
4. 5 IBIDORHYNCHUS STRUTHERSI

in the sandy river-beds in Tehri-Garhal. Four nests were discovered, three of which contained four hard-set eggs and the fourth three eggs, which were also slightly incubated; but I have reason to believe that the last-named was a second clutch, and that the usual complement would be four. The nests were merely hollows in the sand among shingle and boulders on some island or shingle-bank and were all pretty near the water. They were rather neatly lined with little round stones, chiefly of a black colour, which made them somewhat conspicuous, in fact my eye was caught more by the nests than by the eggs. They were not difficult to find, as, possibly owing to the eggs being hard-set, the birds betrayed their whereabouts by their actions, while a little watching did the rest. In two cases, however, the old bird, although it came straight back to the nest, sat down about twelve feet away from the eggs and fairly puzzled me for a short time. One nest I discovered by retracing the tracks of a bird that rose and flew back in a suspicious way, but there was usually too much shingle to do this. Later in the year I saw several broods of young. The parents, in their behaviour with regard to the nest and its location, reminded me strongly of *Hoplopterus ventralis*. They acted very much like Lapwings, wheeling round quite close to my head with their curious twittering cry and enticing a dog away by settling and running in front of it till they were almost caught, but I did not at any time see them feign lameness or broken wings. These birds seem to sit on their eggs with the head held up and the neck not drawn in at all.

“The eggs are greenish grey in ground-colour and are spotted and marked, chiefly at the larger end, with reddish brown and pale purple. They do not vary much either in coloration or size; an average egg measured 1·91 by 1·47 inch.”

The three eggs sent to me vary little, but I may remark that the greenish tinge in the ground-colour has quite faded, and had almost done so when they arrived. The measurements of these three eggs are 1·96 by 1·45, 2·01 by 1·46, and 2·05 by 1·49 inches.

(2) *GALLINAGO SOLITARIA*. (Plate VI. figs. 1, 2.)

Gallinago solitaria Dresser, Man. Palearct. B. p. 763.

I am glad to be able to figure the eggs of this Snipe, for, like those of the preceding species, they have not hitherto been known, although Blanford has stated (Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds, iv. p. 291) that the Solitary Snipe "is undoubtedly found in the Himalayas, and at elevations of from 9000 to 15,000 feet in the breeding-season," but that "the nest and eggs have not been described." According to Taczanowski, this Snipe inhabits the mountains of Northern Tibet, Mongolia, and Siberia north to Kamtschatka, where it is said to be resident. When I was in St. Petersburg in 1904 Dr. Goebel shewed me a small collection of eggs received by him from near Minusinsk, on the Upper Yenesei, near the borders of Mongolia, which he assured me had been most carefully collected and identified. When I noticed that it contained the eggs of several species which I had not previously seen (amongst which were two of the present species), I arranged to take over the whole collection. Unfortunately the collector sent no particulars of the position of the nest or any description of it. The two eggs were taken on the 25th of June, and are larger than those of any Snipe in my collection, measuring 0.74 by 1.29 and 1.78 by 1.30 inch respectively.

(3) *GALLINAGO RADDII*. (Plate VI. fig. 3.)

Mr. Buturlin has recently described a Snipe, closely allied to and indeed a geographical form of *Gallinago caelestis*, but quite distinguishable from that species. In 1905, when collecting at the mouth of the Kolymá River in North-eastern Siberia, he found this Snipe breeding, and sent me four clutches of its eggs, each containing four specimens. In two of these clutches the eggs resemble those of *Gallinago caelestis*, but are, as a rule, more boldly marked than in that species. The eggs in the other two clutches have the ground-colour more greenish grey in tone, and the example figured is one of these. In size they vary from 1.57 by 1.05 to 1.66 by 1.09 inch; thus they seem rather larger than eggs of *Gallinago caelestis*.